

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



**AN INVITATION TO ONE AND ALL.** The Marbosa herds, celebrating the town's 35th anniversary as capital of Occidental Mindoro from March 12 to 15, beckons to all those with summering and chilling in their mind. Dedicated to eco-tourism, Marbosa is blessed with nature's best from its dazzling white sand shores to lush rainforests to its pastoral meadows. Marbosa is finally getting a lot of long overdue attention. PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

## Pay Abu P50M or attack

### Palace cheers Teodoro's plan to succeed GMA

By TJ Bernalde

EVERYTHING BUT THE ENDORSEMENT.

Malacanan officials yesterday cheered Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro's announcement to run for President in the 2010 elections, transporting his credentials and even courting him to US President Barack Obama.

Malacanan officials have been floating the name of Teodoro as a possible candidate for President since November last year.

"He is doing the right thing, saying the right thing. As far as expressing his aspirations to be a candidate in 2010, he's

PALACE A1

### GMA signs controversial baselines bill

By TJ Bernalde

WITHOUT BAMPANG, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has signed into law the controversial measure defining the Philippines' archeological baselines and claims an mineral-rich areas in the South China Sea.

Ms. Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9522 (or the Philippine Archeological Baselines Law) on Tuesday in Malacanan, which marks the formal ceremony that often marks the signing of key legislation, perhaps hoping to avoid controversy with other nations.

The law defines the "general concept

GMA SIGNING A12

### MNLF says these are 2 gov't options to free Jolo hostages

By Kristine L. Alave and Arlyn dela Cruz  
Cebu Bureau

THE GOVERNMENT HAS two options to free the three kidnapped aid workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): Pay the Abu Sayyaf bandits P50 million, or attempt a "very dangerous" rescue operation.

Cotabato City Mayor Musahid Suma and Abul Sabah, the chair and secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), respectively told the *Quintaville* on Tuesday that the kidnappers had demanded "pangsigal" (ransom money) in exchange for the freedom of Italian Eugenio Virgati, Swiss Andreas Winter and Filipino Mary Jean Lumbay.

Sabam told the captives being held in Jolo were "separated around two weeks ago," with Lumbay moved in Manila, and "the two foreigners" in Indonesia.

DOJ A10

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD



**NO. 7 JOSE Q. YER, OF GLASSIC HOMES** This address in Paralaguan is the home of Juan Martinez III, the son of SEC Commissioner Juan Martinez. It was allegedly bought by Legay owner Celso de los Angeles as a gift to Martinez's son. PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

### DOJ, PAGC, NBI going after Martinez

By Christian V. Figueroa, Norman Bordeador and Edison C. Tiendoc Jr.

HE HAS NOWHERE TO RUN AND NO place to hide.

Several government agencies are looking upon Commissioner Juan Martinez of the Securities and Ex-

change Commission (SEC) for his complicity in the Legay Group fiasco.

Aside from the Department of Justice, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) is also studying charges against Martinez.

The Office of the Ombudsman is also "closely monitoring" the developments

of the case.

On Tuesday, the Bureau of Investigation issued a bold-deputate order on Martinez upon the order of Justice Secretary Rod Gonzales.

Gonzales has also ordered National Bureau of Investigation to gather more

DOJ A10

### DPWH usec wounded in ambush outside office

By Kristine L. Alave

IT WAS A BRAZEN ATTEMPT IN BLOODY daylight at the doorstep of a key office of Calabarzan: Public Works Undersecretary Ramon Aquino was seriously wounded yesterday when he was ambushed by still unidentified gunmen while leaving the main office of the De-

partment of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Port Asoy, Masila.

DPWH officials and eyewitnesses said Aquino was in his black Toyota Fortuner (2004-2005) when two men blocked the vehicle and fired at it several times.

The shooting happened at around 3:10 p.m. as the vehicle was about to

cross Bonifacio Drive across from the Club Laramoran Golf course.

Aquino was on his way to a meeting in Malacanan, according to the DPWH public information office.

Aside from Aquino, others in the vehicle were his driver Victor Salonga and bodyguard Tony Calantra. The three were taken to a Manila hospital.

Aquino, who was sitting in the back passenger seat, sustained a gunshot wound on his right side while Calantra was shot in the face. Salonga said in an interview: A bullet grazed Salonga's right cheek.

"I was surprised. We were suddenly under attack. I heard four shots,"

SPH/A10

### FrancisM raged before seeing the light

By Maribel R. Cruz  
Jornalismo

THE RANGING OF CANTER "struggle out the worm" in Francis Magalona, especially in the first few months, before he accepted his fate.

"He cursed, which only made him feel worse," his widow Pia recalled in her eulogy during Mass on the final night of the wake on Tuesday.

"Later on, he learned to do away

FRANCIS A17



**ONE LAST TIME** The bereaved Magalona's kids close to one another as they look upon the final resting ground at the Lapda Memorial Park in Marikina City of their beloved Francis. From left are Maureen, Clara, Enno, Francis Jr., Soab, Arkin, widow Pia and Verna. PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

### Madoff to plead guilty; faces 150 years in jail

NEW YORK—DISGRACED WALL Street titan Robert Madoff pleaded to court on Tuesday that he would plead guilty to all charges—with no plea deal—and face a prison sentence of up to

150 years in connection with the biggest investment fraud in US history.

The 70-year-old Madoff, a former chair of the New York

### Soft loan keeps cave dwellers underground

BY LLOYD—AN AMERICAN FAMILY ES- sence they're able to stay in their home built inside a cave after accepting an offer of a private mortgage and rent.

Carl Slinger on Tuesday said that a New Jersey-based business offered a 15-year lease with a low interest rate that

SPH/LOAN A17







# Don't politicize homecoming of Mancao-Palace

By Christine V.  
Figueroa and  
Norman Borlindars

**MANILA**—Justice Secretary Vilma Santos-Laya said the government's efforts to bring to justice fugitive justice officer Dares Cortes should not be politicized.

Executive Secretary Vilma Santos-Laya said the justice secretary should be that legal practitioners are followed in attending to the principal concern in the 2000 kidnapping and murder of politician "Bobby" Dares and his driver, Francisco Cortes.

"We just have to follow the rule of law. We cannot go on with shortcuts," said Cortes.

## No context

Justice Secretary Vilma Santos-Laya said that while it would be a "plus factor" politically for the Attorney General's Office if Dares were to be brought back, the government should not let the Dares-Cortes double murder case, it was not that the administration had something to do with a justice officer that is perceived to do justice.

Mancao, a former aide of Sen. Paolo Duterte, was the defense attorney for the defense of Dares. Duterte, who told a US federal court that he would no longer pursue his extradition and would return to Manila.

Officials on Tuesday said Mancao had imprisoned several people in an effort to get him out of the US and which has been placed in a back seat. Cortes would not return on the condition of the officials until Dares has returned.

## Aguila is key

Lapses properly reached in reports that Dares had established the unit wanted in the killing, and alleged that Dares had promoted his lawyer into a justice officer.

Dares would the public system running all its lapses on the condition of one man.

"It's not enough that we have one witness or one evidence. The prosecutor should be able to handle (the case) to a manner that it can prove today's tendencies or call beyond reasonable doubts," he said.

While Cortes believes Mancao's efforts in ensuring enough the filing of related charges against those that he would replace, he said the key to solving the Dares-Cortes double murder

case remains the justice officer Michael Ray Aguila.

The more progress made here in Michael Ray Aguila, Justice Secretary Santos-Laya said, the more direct contact with Aguila would be necessary to bring away with Dares Cortes.

But it would be "better" to try and get Aguila to return to have charges for the Dares Cortes case at this time, he said.

Aguila is serving a six-year prison sentence in the US after being convicted in this case for espionage and for possession of classified US documents that he leaked to opposition figures in the Philippines.

Cortes said it was Mancao's role, Mancao, who sought assistance from the government, which he believed was arrested in the US on the basis of a Philippine extradition request.

He said Aguila's presence in the US would help him if he could talk to a representative "Mr. Mancao."

He said he never talked to Mancao personally with Mancao's wife. He said he would be able to write to Mancao through the US Consulate, which is in contact with Mancao's wife. He said he would be able to write to Mancao through the US Consulate.

**EXTRA! PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS ACADEMY**

**SCHEDULING OF SEMINARS FOR MARCH 2009**

SEMINAR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 13, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM Makati
2. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 14, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Marilao
3. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 15, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
4. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 16, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
5. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 17, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
6. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 18, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
7. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 19, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
8. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 20, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
9. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 21, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
10. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 22, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
11. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 23, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
12. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 24, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
13. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 25, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
14. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 26, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
15. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 27, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
16. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 28, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
17. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 29, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
18. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 30, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo
19. <b>MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS</b>	March 31, 2009	9:00am - 12:00pm	SM City Iloilo

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# COPW

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

## COPW WELCOMES STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY

COPW is happy with *Pilipinas Shell's Open Reply to COPW* regarding what they claimed were "inaccurate statements on Oil Issues". Shell's full page ads in the three leading newspapers tackled issues for which the public has demanded transparency so that they can be properly informed. And their questions answered.

The sentiments and questions of the consumers as expressed nationwide in Print, TV, radio and text messages sent to COPW can be summed up thus:

**"The Oil Companies are quick to raise prices when the cost of oil goes up, but are slow in lowering them when the cost of oil goes down".**

Shell has stated that they **REGULARLY** submit information on inventory and costs to the Department of Energy in compliance with Section 11, 11 a) and 12 a) of the Oil Deregulation Law or Republic Act No. 8479.

With this statement of Shell, we will now expect the DOE to assume the responsibility of informing and assuring COPW and the general public that pump prices are fair and reasonable.

We also urge the DOE to finally make a policy decision with regards the Oil Refiners' use of MOPS as pricing benchmark versus Dubai crude as stated in the Shell ads. The public needs to know and understand the effect this will have on pump prices considering that Refiners Petron and Shell and global importers Galtex & Total control virtually 80% of the market.

In this regard, if DOE feels that they do not have enough powers under the present Oil Deregulation Law to properly perform their regulatory functions, we will support a call for Congress to review RA 8479 and make the necessary amendments. We will also ask Congress to make a determination if, specially under a deregulated environment, the use of MOPS is in consonance with the Oil Deregulation Law and will be beneficial to the consuming public.

COPW thanks DOJ Secretary Raul Gonzalez for his letter on February 19th requesting COPW to provide factual and legal basis for our allegations that "the DOE and the DOJ, over the past 11 years, have been passive in enforcing the safeguard provisions of the Oil Deregulation Law".

Secretary Gonzalez has also issued a memorandum ordering DOE Secs. Roy Kyamko and DOJ Sec. Jose Vicente Salazar and the members of the DOE-DOJ Task Force "to immediately convene and monitor and/or investigate possible violations of the Oil Deregulation Law".

On April 17, 2008, in a prior case, Usaka Kyamko and Salazar submitted to Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court their findings with regards a case filed by the Social Justice Society against "the big 3" Oil Companies regarding possible violations of RA 8479 as follows:

1. Before a case can be filed in court, there must be an investigation to be conducted by the DOE-DOJ Task Force
2. There is no evidence showing that the Oil Companies committed a monopoly or a combination in restraint of trade under Sec 11(a) and Sec 12 of RA 8479
3. There is likewise no evidence that the Oil Companies committed cartelization

The Social Justice Society has filed a motion questioning the findings of the Task Force and a hearing has been set at 8:30 am on March 13, 2009. COPW has filed a Motion to Intervene with Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr and will participate in the hearing on behalf of the consumer sector. COPW is optimistic that Judge Pampilo will be able to resolve the issues with finality when all parties meet on banc.

COPW reiterates its willingness to sit down with Oil Refiners Shell and Petron and global importers Chevron and Total, apart from the New Players Flying V, SeaOil, Unioil, and Eastern Petroleum to compare and reconcile our respective data.

All in the spirit of transparency. And accurate public information.

### LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! COPW WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you agree with COPW's position on Transparency in Oil pricing and are you receiving sufficient information under a deregulated environment?

YES NO

Text your answer to:

8917 - 838 2902 for Globe Subscribers • 0918 - 900 2002 for Smart Subscribers  
Infotext to rtc 0917 - 555 5754

*Raul T. Concepcion*  
RAUL T. CONCEPCION  
Chairman

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW>  
E-mail: [copw@cfl.com.ph](mailto:copw@cfl.com.ph)

## GMA orders PNP to track down killers of mediamen

President Macarandang (GMA) yesterday ordered the Philippine National Police to track down the killers of journalists and put up a P2-million "bounty fund" to help the police.

Macarandang issued the order during a hastily-called dialogue with executives and representatives of different media outlets, print organizations, and the PNP at the emergence of the 4th floor of mediamen.

Macarandang also approved the donation of P2 million to the so-called "bounty fund" to help families of slain journalists in seeking justice, he added.

"This reaffirms the President's commitment to press freedom and media," he said during the joint briefing with executives of television networks, radio stations, and newspapers, and press organizations.

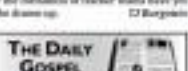
No. 180

Radio/television license holders were killed in Cagayan City on Feb. 23, increasing the number of victims to be killed in the Philippines since 1986, according to press organizations.

In response, Nene Raciona, vice chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, said the group appreciated Macarandang's move to call for a dialogue with the media to work the killings.

"We appreciate everything that can be done, but we don't demand special treatment," he said, saying the group merely requested the authorities to do their jobs properly, freedom of the press and working conditions against violence. "Working during news will go a long way in doing that (preventing freedom of the press)."

Police Director Raul Baccala, chair of TF LGU, which was asked to look into the killings of journalists, said the guidelines for the formation of teacher unions have to be followed up.



Thursday, March 12, 2009

2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Gen 17:1-18

Psalm: Ps 115:1-18

Evangelist: Matt 23:1-12

Read and be blessed. These four are a rich feast for the soul. Let us pray for the world and for our country. Let us pray for the world and for our country. Let us pray for the world and for our country.

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March 14 and 15 (regular mall hours)**

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**March 13**

Manila – The Company  
Galleria – Jimmy Bondoc  
Metro East – Tunog Kalye  
Nova Market – Tambalan  
Lipa – Jace Flores  
Angeles – Jonalyn Viray  
Dasmariñas – Iwa Moto  
Sta. Rosa – Isabel Oli

**March 14**

Manila – "Monsters vs. Aliens"  
Monster Academy  
Metro East – Jimmy Bondoc  
Nova Market – Tunog Kalye  
Dasmariñas – Tambalan  
Imus – Itchyworms  
Lipa – Sex Bomb  
Los Baños – Jonalyn Viray  
Sta. Rosa – Kenyo

**March 15**

Manila – Jimmy Bondoc  
Metro East – The Company  
Nova Market – Sexbomb  
Dasmariñas – Tunog Kalye  
Sta. Rosa – Christian Bautista  
Angeles – Itchyworms  
Imus – Marian Rivera  
Lipa – Sheena Halili

**MONSTER RADIO  
RX 93.1**



















# INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

 Editor: Joe Sumbayal  
 Bureau Chief: Nestor G. Soliman

## Homegrown guerrillas await PVAO call

 By Joe Sumbayal Jr.  
 Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro

'The guerrillas liberated Naga after they wiped out the Japanese forces in a series of attacks and man-to-man combats'

**C**AN HOME-GROWN GUERRILLAS during World War II also claim service benefits from the United States? Ninety-four-year-old Superio Aranas hopes so.

Aranas did not enlist for the US Armed Forces of the 3rd Fleet (1942), which was under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, but he fought the Japanese forces as a member of an indigenous Filipino guerrilla group in Cagayan de Oro.

Last week, Aranas waited a long time for an interview at the Philippine Veterans Administration (1970) (PVVA) in Laguna City in Alifan, the region he was credited to have the engagement for the US government's service grant of \$5,000 to \$15,000 to veterans.

Aranas said he had the rank of sergeant of the Tuguegarao Guerrilla Unit (TGUGU), which was formed on March 8, 1942, in San Nicolas, Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro, and led by Juan Q. Silvestre.

### Rank of guerrilla war

Aranas' cousin-in-law, Basilio Aranas, 82, hopes that his application and interview at the PVVA office will substantiate his claim, for if he will be disappointed, he says, he cannot do anything more.

He, too, was told to wait for a call from the PVVA.

According to Joe Sumbayal Jr., as



**SUPERIO** Aranas, 94, a sergeant of the Tuguegarao Guerrilla Unit, submitted his application with the necessary documents to the PVVA office in Laguna City. He is 94 years old.



**MARTINO** Aranas, 82, the sergeant of the Tuguegarao Guerrilla Unit, submitted his application with the necessary documents to the PVVA office in Laguna City. He is 82 years old.

chief of the book 'The Crucible of the American War in Cagayan de Oro 1942-1945' published by the National Historical Institute in 2007, the PVVA was organized as a response to the needs of the veterans of the Japanese forces.

The idea came from Elmo Madrid, then 33, a wealthy landowner in the province, the records said.

He said Madrid founded the resistance unit and his wife, Maria Abenoja, led the purchase of firearms in the Cagayan Peninsula to support the resistance of the Japanese forces in the province of Cagayan de Oro. He was a member of a group who served properties in San Pedro, Naga City, and Zamboanga, the mayor of Cagayan de Oro when the war broke out.

The PVVA was formally organized when Gen. SA Aranas, a former 1st Lt. Colonel, Cagayan de Oro, and Manila, Madrid's nephew who had been a sergeant and later an officer of the Philippine Army in Laguna, agreed to join.

Madrid appointed Madrid as commanding officer, while Aranas was the executive officer in charge of propaganda. The TGUGU leaders assumed the position of the resistance unit, liberating the province and recovering its status for the young recruits.

Both Aranas, then 27, and Aranas, then 17, were recruited by Madrid.

Aranas covered the south of the first and second districts of the province, moving from one sub-unit to another, with Madrid. Aranas moved to the main force of Camp 8, Purgis.

Aranas' first war experience, he said, was to lead the TGUGU's victory in Espalido in Purgis, Cagayan de Oro, where the guerrillas launched a campaign of Japanese forces in Purgis City. Killing most of them, including two high-ranking officers.

Aranas said he was impressed for three days as the Japanese garrison in Aranas de Purgis for waiting a week until he said the Japanese were suspicious of people wearing loose jackets, which could hide guns and knives.

Aranas said he was surprised and surprised by the resistance movement. He was killed inside the garrison, he said. When he was found, he reported Camp 8, Purgis, a TGUGU accomplishment of 5000 in Cagayan, Cagayan.

Aranas said he heard about the history of the TGUGU guerrilla who were pursued Japanese soldiers and used a cache of firearms.

### War heroism

Based on dozens of interviews with surviving war veterans, Aranas said the TGUGU was the strongest guerrilla unit that fought the Japanese and pro-Japanese personality groups for three years without American support.

Aranas said the guerrillas liberated Naga after they wiped out the Japanese forces in a series of attacks and man-to-man combats.

Aranas said he was sent to Purgis and joined the 127th Army Engineering Company in order to be organized of 128 soldiers. The unit was undertaking the reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed during the war.

Aranas said he enlisted in the army in 1951, five years after he was discharged from the TGUGU.

### Korean War

He said he might have served the United States a second time when he enlisted with the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea during the Korean War in 1951.

He proudly showed a framed certificate of gratitude from the South Korean government for his "valuable service" in its people as shown by his participation in the war.

In 1953, he came home to Cagayan and applied for deployment in Okinawa.

Aranas, a post commander of the Philippine Veterans Association in the town, receives a \$5,000 monthly pension.

He recalled how small his monthly wage rate of \$50 when he served as a private in the Philippine Constabulary. His wage improved to \$145 a month, which added \$70 in gratuity for his being an office clerk and later a sergeant.

In a statement dedicated to the TGUGU at the town plaza, a former 1st Lt. Aranas said he was happy to have worked with his old unit and serving his country.

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# Army men tagged in teacher's slay

## NPA leader identifies 4 spies as killers, tormentors of daughter

**DAND CITY**—A commander leader accused four agents of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) of the armed forces' Eastern Mindanao Command of perpetrating the homicide and murder of his daughter.

Lenardo Pineda, also Commander Pineda, said he had information that four agents of the MIG were involved in the slaying of his daughter, Lenarda, 20, and an elementary school teacher, non-identical, unnamed, and murdered by the four MIG agents.

Pineda identified the four as an informant in his father's name, who was in Pampanga, Davao, in San Francisco, and in the Philippines, and an elementary school teacher, non-identical, unnamed, and murdered by the four MIG agents.

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**NPA LEADER** Lenardo Pineda, also Commander Pineda, talks to journalists on his last command somewhere in the mountains of Davao City.

agents were linked to the slaying.

**Agents indeed**

Mr. Leopoldo Cabangbang, spokesman of the Eastern Mindanao Command, confirmed that the four were MIG agents.

"Of course there is no evidence that will put down the

four, we are asking them to show up," because the men

know that Pineda and his group were behind the killing of his daughter. He said it was "right and his group who constantly

interviewed by a police station here, Pineda quickly denied the allegation. He said he has

been in Manila since January.

Pineda, however, said he believes that Pineda and his group were behind the killing of his daughter. He said it was "right and his group who constantly

interviewed by a police station here, Pineda quickly denied the allegation. He said he has

who was shot dead in June last year in Davao City. It was also the MIG, he said, that was behind the failed attack on his son, Ryan, two years ago.

**NPA punishment**

Pineda said the NPA would punish those who will provide the four MIG agents.

Meanwhile, Pineda said, also expressed fear of a referendum if the case is left in the hands of government agencies like the police.

"You know each other case, you have stated opinion, the people's involvement and we must pay," Pineda said, addressing the NPA media group.

He also denied the Eastern Mindanao Command to send the MIG agents to the informant to say "we will not make other lives."

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said if there will be justice then he will not be involved in the investigation but will not prevent the law MIG agents from investigating body without evidence against them.

Duterte said in investigating a case, he will not be involved in the investigation but will not prevent the law MIG agents from investigating body without evidence against them.

He said, however, that the military was conducting a separate investigation.

The four agents, he said, will be asked the same questions in a crime investigation—where were they when the crime was committed and if they were involved.

The Cabangbang said those questions had been answered months "10 years, it was an accurate denial by the agencies," he said.

He mentioned that Pineda was in Manila about January while Pineda was undergoing training inside the camp where Pineda was involved.

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# Tacloban group of businessmen starts signature drive for Puno

By Joy A. Galdos  
Report Writer

**TACLOBAN CITY**—SOME OF the city's top businessmen have started a signature campaign to support Chief Justice Renato C. Corona's second term.

The businessmen have formed the Tacloban chapter of the Movement for Good Governance (MGG), a group formed by the supporters of Pineda.

Then, Pineda's spokesman said the businessmen have signed a paper with the phrase "In part of the change" since the signature campaign is still in its early stages.

"We are happy that they will actively sign up their names. They know and understand what we are pushing for," MGG said.

MGG explained that the signature campaign sought to support the MGG goal of electing traditional politicians, which the group described as a "change in power" and "corruption at their own risk."

"We have enough of them, we believe that it's about time that we say this kind of statement," MGG said.

Since the members of MGG-Tacloban were businessmen, they only gather signatures at their offices beside setting up a table with a banner in downtown Tacloban City.

The businessmen also distributed pamphlets and stickers to the public, which they said were to help with the campaign.

"Personally, I am happy that they came out of their comfort zone to help with this campaign, which is for the good of the country," MGG said.

He said the group would like to gather 200,000 signatures and they would submit the results of the signature campaign to Pineda.

The signature campaign is still ongoing in other parts of the city, including in the provinces of Samar, Leyte, and Negros.



**WELCOME COMMITTEE** Supporters of Chief City Mayor Tomas Duterte bring the state to the arrival of the mayor at the Plaza Supta before the City Hall. Duterte came on leave and left for the United States for treatment.

**WELCOME COMMITTEE** Supporters of Chief City Mayor Tomas Duterte bring the state to the arrival of the mayor at the Plaza Supta before the City Hall. Duterte came on leave and left for the United States for treatment.

# Plastic pesticide drums cause for concern

LA TRINIDAD, MONTEVIDEO

Modern agriculture that uses the country in the 1970s made

recognition of farmers' happy to the introduction of chemical inputs yielded the promised

benefits. The decades of chemical farming have also resulted in

hazardous wastes that threaten the environment and health, said Dr. Carlos

Laureano, director of the National Office of the Environment (ONE).

He said empty plastic containers of farm implements are not a waste for farmers, are

used as fuel and water containers, or as small water

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## POC told: Liquidate P74.6M expenses

**SAMUEL RAYNO CROSS**, AIA's first African American and Spanish Barrios president Michael Noguera (second) and (third from left) sign the agreement for the razing of the first Barrio Bascorial capital space zone 2009 on March 11 or 22 at the Gateway Mall in Arroyo Center, Cuban. With them are OJL's Jose Guadalupe and Cynthia Maldonado.

## Globe

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# BUSINESS

## FX-aided exports boost thumbed down

By Michelle K. Barro

NOT EVEN THE RECORD 41 percent drop in exports will convince the foreign-owned and Filipino companies to increase trade in dollar-denominated markets to sufficiently weaken the peso.

The monetary authority, however, is not alone in the push to weaken the peso in tandem with the dollar. The peso is being pushed down by buying dollars from the market as part of an aggressive policy to the dollar. But in the country's export earnings.

The BSP said a measure to

Electronics sector better off with state stimulus, says BSP

adopt the policy of allowing a more liberalized exchange rate.

"It is not good to artificially weaken foreign exchange. That will have adverse effects, such as on industries that rely heavily on imports and those with foreign currency-denominated debts like the national government," BSP Deputy Governor Alex Nolasco said.

A weaker peso, while it makes Philippine-made goods

cheaper and more competitive in dollar terms, makes imported goods and loans denominated in foreign currencies more expensive in local currency terms.

Out of the P4.236-trillion debt of the national government as of November 2008, P1.82 trillion or 43 percent are in the form of foreign currencies.

Nolasco also stressed that the peso fall in exports was due to a weak demand result-

ing from the crisis, and that demand by Philippine-made goods would not necessarily increase with a weaker peso.

Electronics are the Philippines' largest export products, accounting for 34 percent of the country's export earnings. Nolasco said that activities of strengthening tourism, household appliances, food and other basic goods rather than manufacturing the consumer electronics.

"Selling export is not channel through which the global crisis is affecting [the Philippines]. Consumers would rather buy local and delay plans to buy electronics," Nolasco said.

According to the National Statistics Office, the country's overall exports amounted to only P2.09 billion in January, falling 41 percent from P4.23 billion in the same month last year. Electronics exports alone

reached P2.315 billion, down 46 percent year-on-year.

Nolasco said that instead of artificially weakening the peso, it is better to let the market decide the peso's value. He said increasing the local currency to export, as they could improve their business and even reduce the cost paid for their higher demand, would be a better strategy.

He also said the national government should still be able to spend P200 billion in stimulus measures for the year to boost the domestic demand.

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## Japan to lend P30B for agri

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS COM- mitted to extend approximately P30 billion in loans to the Philippines to fund various projects intended to boost the environment and to boost the agricultural sector.

According to a statement from the National Economic and Development Authority, the Japanese and the Philippine governments have already formally agreed on the official development assistance.

One of the projects to be funded largely by the loan is the P4.52-billion "Super Rural Land Management (Purification)" to be implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Of the amount, P2.36 billion will be shouldered by a loan from the Japanese government via the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The balance will be covered by the country's own funding from the Philippine government.

Purification, expected to be implemented over a 10-year period, aims to rehabilitate degraded communities located near the national river basins in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley Region, Central Luzon and Western Visayas. Under the project, the government's capacity to manage forestland will also be enhanced.

By rehabilitating the areas near the river basins and by improving government's forestland management capacity, the JICA aid socioeconomic conditions of the regions will be enhanced.

The project will also cover the conduct of forest land use planning, community organizing, site development through extension, agroforestry, silviculture and enterprise development, among others.

The second project is the PPA-funded "Support Program for Agri-Enterprise Development (SPADE)" to be implemented by the Land Bank of the Philippines. Of the amount, the loan will account for P7.7 billion, while the balance shall be the Philippine government's counterpart funding.

According to the SPADE, which will run for five years, will make available short-, medium- and long-term loans for players in the agriculture sector. Michelle K. Barro

## Phoenix buys industrial park

By Amy K. Barro

PHOENIX PETROLEUM PHILIPPINES INC. has acquired 120 hectares of the Bonifacio Industrial Park, Corp. (BIPC) from Enx Corporation and a 3.5-hectare property for BIPC's use.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Phoenix Petroleum said it purchased 3.6 million shares from Bonifacio Industrial Park, Corp. (BIPC), 1.5 million shares from Enx Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. (ENX-ASO), 300,000 shares from Enx Asia Power Corp. (ENX-APC) and 300,000 shares from Enx Asia Holdings Corp.

With this disclosure, the PSE also lifted the trading suspension imposed on the shares of Phoenix Petroleum last week, after the company had then failed to submit pertinent documents about the acquisition.

According to Phoenix, the agreement for the purchase of equity shares of the BIPC was signed on Monday, at the price of P10.00 per share.

"Trading for the purchase shall be primarily sourced from internally generated funds and loans," the company added.

BIPC, which was incorporated on March 1996, has an adjusted net asset value of about P12 million. Prior to the buyout, BIPC was the industrial property development arm of Phoenix Petroleum.

Phoenix further said that the agreement likewise included the purchase of the 3.5-hectare Phoenix property located inside the Bonifacio Industrial Park.

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## LUZON

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## VISAYAS • MINDANAO

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# Recession-proofing the industry

## THE 1st BIG-BUDGETED MOVIE OF 2009!

NASH GEN MAYRA CHUN-LI  
CANTARRA BALROS M. BISON VEGA



## THE NO. 1 MOVIE IN THE U.S.

THEY'VE TAKEN HIS DAUGHTER. NOW, HE'S TAKING THEM DOWN.



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. BUT IF YOU DON'T LET MY DAUGHTER GO, I WILL FIND YOU... I WILL KILL YOU.

LIAM NEESON

now showing

WHEN THE ECONOMY GOES bad, people lose their jobs and hold on to their last dollar or yen. Logically, therefore, the recreational industry should suffer, since hard-up folks would prefer to buy food rather than pay for a ticket to see a film in a class.

A few months ago, that industry side of things appeared to have been verified by news that scores of shows were folding up as Broadway. Recently, however, another report articulated a disheartening opinion. In the U.S., movie ticket sales were being sold from every balcony, back home on buses, the new film, "The Changeling My Life," is said to be meeting the \$100-million mark at the box office—a 10 with a high-five flourish.

Other encouraging signs that show the industry is staying afloat include the fact that the "The Changeling My Life" movie has been sold to 100 theaters. The TV show continues to carry full commercial loads. And the impending reduction of the stimulus tax from 30 to 10 percent should encourage producers to make more movies, thus boosting the local film industry's flagging annual output.

Why have some metrics of the entertainment industry survived the global recession? Some observers note that, when times are dire, people need a psychological lift, an escape from their troubled realizations, as they go to the movies. In the movie theater's case, dark worlds, they experience emotions of delight and excitement, and leave refreshed. This sort of movie will do the trick. A survey report of recent film releases indicates that people desire dark, gritty, and intense, action, and give dark, action films a wide berth.

That logic: They have enough problems in their own lives and want to add to their woes by watching negative outlook on the big or small screen.

### VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Not that movies should be dog-eat-dog from now on. But as the film "The Changeling My Life" and "The Changeling My Life" show, it's a number of depressing scenes and situations... an long to movie participants in the end.

They also even accept the death of a protagonist, like Clint Eastwood's character in "Gran Torino," because his demise will be a lesson to those who might live.

By the movie's end, if you want to "know

When times are dire, we need a psychological lift, an escape from our trials and tribulations.

you need" your production, you don't have to go the path of a movie that begins to end. You can still embrace and mirror life in all of its meaning, difficulty... but make sure that you find positive meaning and worth in your story's development. Bring your value in also, because it provides viewers with the satisfying pleasure of a well-told story. But "Gran Torino" and "The Changeling My Life" show that their generally well-acted members that a

"The Changeling My Life" film can still connect with millions of viewers—as long as it applies to inspire. Inspiration—this is the case of the movie. Its genre is that of a thriller. When people see the story in the movie, they want to look up in the light of inspiration, the psychological because they need to lift their spirits up—and this is what producers can provide.

**Musical theater workshop**  
From April 13 to May 23, Mondays-Weekdays 10:00am-12:00pm, "Theater with a Twist" at the Center for the Performing Arts will offer the musical theater workshop. The workshop is for young adults, with a focus on acting and singing. The workshop is free of charge. For more information, call 520-520-5200 or email [theaterwithatwist@cpa.com.ph](mailto:theaterwithatwist@cpa.com.ph).

**"12 Rounds"**  
One wrong move could take the movie closer to a deadly conclusion in the high-speed action flick, "12 Rounds," starring Mike Clay and featuring a stellar cast.

The film stars Mike Clay as a police officer (Clay) who is a brilliant cop. Mike Clay (Clay) is a police officer who is a brilliant cop. He is a police officer who is a brilliant cop. He is a police officer who is a brilliant cop.

**Kelly Clarkson**  
The five American Idol, Kelly Clarkson, is back with her latest single, "My Life Would Suck Without You," off her upcoming album, "Kelly Clarkson." The song is a ballad that tells the story of a woman who is a brilliant cop. The song is a ballad that tells the story of a woman who is a brilliant cop.

## Journey live in Manila

From page 10

**GREENHILLS CINEMAS**

**THEATRE-MALL**

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**PROMENADE**

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**MARQUEE**

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**CARLO OROS**

**Carlo Oros at LSGH**

**Best of All**

**Shang-La Place**

**M M T MOVIE GUIDE**

**NON-SHOWING**

**SHOWING**

**Walter Mart**

**EASTWOOD MALL**

**REGINE VELASQUEZ**

**LIVE AT THE EASTWOOD PARK**

**MARCH 13, 2009 - 7:00 PM**

**SHANG CINEPLEX**

**WATCHMEN**

**1** **2** **3** **4**

**WATCHMEN**

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**

**WATCHMEN**

**1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7**

**FROM THE LEGENDARY DIRECTOR OF 300**

**WATCHMEN**





